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District Court

JUL 25 2005

For The Northern Mariana Islands
By _____
(Deputy Clerk)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
ERIC JOHN TUDELA MAFNAS,)
CHARLEY K. PATRIS, and)
CARL CABRERA,)
)
Defendants,)
_____)

Criminal Case No. 04-00038

**UNITED STATES' PROPOSED
JURY VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS**


Jury Trial: August 1, 2005

Time: 9:00 a.m.

The United States of America, by and through its undersigned attorneys, hereby submits
the attached proposed jury voir dire questions.

LEONARDO M. RAPADAS
United States Attorney
Districts of Guam and the NMI

Date: 7/25/05

By: 
JAMIE D. BOWERS
TIMOTHY E. MORAN
Assistant United States Attorneys

1 In addition to the following questions, the Government respectfully requests that the
2 Court, at the beginning of the voir dire, instruct all prospective jurors to pay close attention to all
3 of the Court's questions. Then, as additional jurors are selected to fill vacant seats, the Court
4 should ask that newly seated juror whether they would have responded affirmatively to any of the
5 Court's general questions and should follow up as appropriate.
6

7 **General Background**

- 8 1. In what village do you presently live? How long have you lived at your present
9 residence?
10 2. Where were you born?
11 3. What is your present marital status?
12 4. What is your present occupation? Please state your work history, including
13 periods not employed. If retired, please state your work history prior to retirement
14 and state when you retired.
15 5. What is your spouse's present occupation?
16 6. Please state your spouse's work history, including periods not employed.
17 7. If you have ever been married before, please state the occupation of your previous
18 spouse(s) for the five year period preceding the end of the marriage, and briefly
19 describe the employment of the former spouse(s).
20 8. Do you have any children? If so, what are their names, ages, and sex? If any of
21 them are adults, what are their occupations?
22 9. Do you have any health problems which may affect your service as a juror? If so,
23 state briefly the nature of the problem.
24 10. Do you require regular or frequent medication or medical care and attention?
25 11. Have you completed high school, college, or graduate school, and what, if any,
26 was your area of concentration (major etc.)?
27 12. Are you presently a student? If so, state the school you are attending, your grade
28 level, and your area(s) of concentration.

1 13. Do you have any religious, moral, or personal reasons which would prevent your sitting
2 in judgment on another person?

3 14. If you have learned something about this case or about the prosecution or the defendant,
4 have you formed or expressed an opinion about the guilt or innocence of the defendant
5 with reference to the charges in this case? If yes, state the opinion you have formed or
6 expressed.

7 15. Do you know of any reason you could not serve as a fair and impartial juror in this
8 particular case? If yes, please explain.

9 **Military Service**

10 16. Have you ever served in the military? If so, what branch? What rank did you attain?

11 17. Where did you serve?

12 18. Have you had any experience with military trials or military justice? If so, please
13 describe.

14 **Nature of Case**

15 19. Is there anything about the subject of this case, that is, police officers allegedly conspiring
16 to steal drugs and money from the Department of Public Safety, lying about it, and
17 participating in a conspiracy to sell drugs, that makes you not want to be involved in the
18 trial of this case? If so, what is it?

19 20. We all have experience with police officers. Would you be able to be a fair and impartial
20 juror in this case which involves allegations of police officers stealing evidence and lying
21 about it?

22 21. Have you or a family member ever had a problem with drugs or substance abuse
23 addiction? If so, what happened and do you believe that it would affect your service as a
24 juror?

25 22. Have you or a family member ever been the victim of a violent crime? If so, what
26 happened and do you believe that it would affect your service as a juror?

27 23. Do you believe that the United States Government should not have jurisdiction over
28 thefts from the Department of Public Safety?

Exposure to Law, Law Enforcement

24. Have you, any member of your family, or a close personal friend ever been accused of any crime?
25. Have you ever been arrested?
26. Has any close friend or family member ever been arrested?
27. Have you, a family member or a close personal friend ever been convicted of a crime or misdemeanor? If yes, please explain.
28. Have you, or any family member ever been a witness in a criminal or civil case? If so, please explain.
29. Have you ever had any direct contact with the police as a victim, witness, suspect, etc.? If so, please describe the circumstances.
30. Do you feel that the law enforcement agency involved conducted itself properly?
31. Have you, any family member or close personal friend ever been employed in law enforcement? If yes, give details.
32. Have you, any family member or close personal friend ever been employed or associated with a lawyer who practices criminal law? If yes, give details.
33. Do you or your relatives or close friends have any pending lawsuits or claims against the United States or any of its agencies? If so, please describe the circumstances surrounding these claims.
34. Please explain your past experience on juries in both civil and criminal cases. Tell us when the case was tried and the nature of the case. Without telling me whether or not the jury found the defendant guilty or not guilty, please tell me whether or not the jury actually reached a verdict. Would you be influenced in any way by your previous experience as a juror?
35. Do you have any fixed view about the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Attorney's Office, or the CNMI Department of Public Safety that would affect your ability to be an impartial juror in this case?
36. Do you believe that federal criminal law should not be enforced in the CNMI?

1 37. Most of us during our lives have in one way or another come into contact with law
2 enforcement officers. Have any of these experiences made you feel one way or another
3 about law enforcement officers? If so, what are these feelings?

4 38. Would you tend to believe the testimony of a witness just because that witness is a law
5 enforcement officer and for no other reason? Or, on the other hand, would you tend not
6 to believe the testimony of a witness just because that witness is a law enforcement
7 officer?

8 39. Have any of you ever witnessed the commission of a crime? What type of crime? What
9 was the outcome of the case? Would you be influenced in any way by your experience as
10 a witness to a crime?

11 **Witnesses/Attorneys**

12 40. Are any of you friendly or associated or related with the attorneys for the United States or
13 for the defense in this case, either socially or through your role as jurors in other cases? If
14 so, please explain the nature of your contact and how it may affect your attitude as a juror
15 in this case.

16 41. Do any of you know any of the witnesses who might testify? If so, please describe your
17 acquaintance. If you know any of these people, would you be able to lay aside that
18 acquaintanceship and be guided by the evidence presented in this case and by the law
19 given by the Judge?

20 42. One or more of the government's witnesses may have entered into an agreement with the
21 government under which they will not be prosecuted. The court will instruct you to
22 consider the testimony of such a witness with greater caution than that of an ordinary
23 witness. Do you think you can listen to a witness that has entered into an agreement with
24 the government, and decide whether he or she is telling the truth and in some cases return
25 a verdict of guilty based on the testimony, even though you do not like the witness or do
26 not approve of the arrangement the government has made with the witness?

27 43. Do any of you know the defendant or his family members socially or through some
28 business or other relationship or acquaintanceship? If so, please describe the relationship

1 or acquaintanceship. Would it be embarrassing and perhaps even painful to have to
2 return a verdict against the defendant when you are so acquainted with the defendant or
3 his family?

4 44. Does the identity of any of the defendant's relatives cause any of you any concern for any
5 reason?

6 45. Would the identity of any of the defendant's relatives affect your consideration of the
7 case in any way?

8 46. Is there any other reason why you could not sit as a juror in this case because of who the
9 defendant is, who his relatives are, or because of any witness that may testify in this case?

10 **Activities, Sources of Information**

11 40. What are your primary sources of information and news?

12 41. What newspapers or magazines do you read?

13 42. How often do you read the newspapers?

14 43. Do you regularly listen to or watch local or national news?

15 44. What are your favorite television shows?

16 45. What are your special interests, hobbies, and recreational pursuits?

17 46. Are you or any member of your family active in any civic, community, fraternal, or
18 church/religious activities? If so, please briefly describe them.

19 47. Are you or any member of your family active in any political activities at the present
20 time? If so, describe briefly.

21 48. Have you ever been an officer in any club or organization? If so, please describe.

22 **Jury Functions, Duties, and Responsibilities**

23 49. Do you have any problem with the concept that you will be instructed as to the law, but
24 that you are the sole and exclusive judges of the facts?

25 50. In arriving at a verdict, would you take into consideration all the facts and circumstances
26 rather than just singling out one factor alone?

27 51. Do you feel that you can keep an open mind and wait until you hear all the evidence and
28 the instructions on the law before making up your mind?

1 52. Do you feel that you can fairly render a verdict in his case according to the evidence and
2 the law and not allow the fear of the criticism from any source to influence your verdict?

3 **Other Matters**

4 53. Has anyone talked to you about this case or attempted to influence you in any way about
5 it since you were notified that you may be on the jury panel or even before you were so
6 notified?

7 54. If you are selected to sit on this case, will you be able to render a verdict solely on the
8 evidence presented at trial and the law as it is given to you? Can you disregard any ideas,
9 notions or beliefs about the facts or the law that you may have earlier encountered or
10 formed?

11 55. Some of you may have already heard something about this case. You might have read
12 about it in the newspaper or seen something about it on television. You might have
13 spoken to others about the case. You might have told people what you think about the
14 case. You might have heard other people express an opinion about the case. Can you set
15 aside all of that information, the impressions or opinions you have about the case, and
16 decide this case only on the evidence that will be presented to you during the course of
17 the trial and on the instructions of law that the court will give you?

18 56. Is there anyone here who has any other reason not mentioned by my previous questions
19 which they feel would make it difficult for them to sit fairly and impartially in this case?
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